

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
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Dear Harold,

Two frantic weeks have passed since I got your letter. That couldn't possibly be accepted as an excuse by you who always manages to get done what has to be done and more.

In any case....

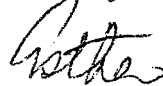
As I told you, I'm sorry that you've taken the position that you cannot be available to us for an interview. I think you would have made a valuable contribution to our broadcast and to your client's case. Also, I still am surprised that you consider our law suit so inappropriate.

I have always tried to be open and available to all points of view when I work on a subject. Also, I make all attempts not to have preconceived notions about people that would necessarily conform to what other people have tried to plant in my head. Finally, I fully recognize that I am not the only one who knows how to do a particular job nor is my way the only way.

I don't share your contempt for my colleagues at CBS News, their work or their methods, and I hope to clear up any idea of yours that I do. I have great respect for the work you do, the commitment you have to it, and the energy you put into it. That does not mean I adopt your opinions and conclusions or abdicate my own responsibilities to the story.

When this is all over, I will indeed be interested in talking to you about this--maybe before.

All my best,



Esther Kartiganer